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A #5/B  
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: A-64411-2/RFT/RMS/RMK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

) Examiner: Not Assigned  
)

MEADE et al.

) Group: Not Assigned  
)

Serial No.: 09/921,645

Filed: August 3, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

For: METALLIC SOLID SUPPORTS  
MODIFIED WITH NUCLEIC  
ACIDS

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited  
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Signed:

*Mary M. Farland*  
Mary McFarland

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231  
BOX: MISSING PARTS/FEE

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application mailed August 29, 2001.

Prior to examination of the above identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

After page 35, please insert new page 36 as follows:

**ABSTRACT**

--The present invention is directed to solid supports having metallic surfaces comprising blocking moieties and modified nucleic acids, which exhibit excellent characteristics in hybridization assays, in a stable, reproducible, rapid manner. In an additional aspect, the invention provides methods utilizing the solid supports to hybridize probe nucleic acid to target nucleic acid and methods for detecting the hybridization complex.--

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